

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are under examination. Applicants have cancelled claims 4 and 9-12 and amended claims 1, 2 and 5-7. Applicants have also added new claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments are fairly based on the specification and do not introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendments and arguments below.

Applicants have amended the specification to properly include a new first paragraph referencing related applications. Applicants have amended the specification to insert the required language indicating that color drawings are part of the application. Applicants believe the instructions where to insert this language are unambiguous. As such, Applicants submit that objections to the disclosure should now be withdrawn.

Applicants have hereby cancelled claims 4 and 9-12. Applicants therefore submit that any objections or rejections for these claims are now moot.

Claims 2-6 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claims, canceling claim 4 and

amending the other claims accordingly. As such, Applicants submit that the indefiniteness rejections of these claims should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) and or §103(a) in view of several references. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims introducing the limitation of claim 4 into independent claim 1. Applicants submit that as such the art related claims rejections are now moot. Applicants have also added new claim 13 which depends on claim 1 and includes the optional feature of the now cancelled claim 4. As such, claim 13 is also free of prior art.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 17, 19-22 and 27-29 of co-pending patent application number 10/589,717. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer which shows the conflicting application is commonly owned with this application thus overcoming this rejection.


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert the Examiner's rejections can not be sustained and should be withdrawn. Applicants believe that claims 1-3, 5-8 and 13 are in allowable form and earnestly solicit their allowance.

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Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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